

APPRECIATION FOR THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT KARZAI

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to add my appreciation and applause for the words of President Karzai of Afghanistan. We had the great pleasure as members of the Afghanistan Caucus, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) the Chair, and myself as cochair, along with other Members of Congress, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) to visit most recently in Afghanistan and to see the real examples of progress that have been made and particularly the provisional reconstruction teams of our military who are engaged in building clinics and schools, hospitals and homes.

We do know that there is more work to be done. There is work to be done with the warlords and the militias. It is imperative that we stay the course as it relates to the war on terror in Afghanistan and to focus on not having distractions that keep us from finishing our commitment there. It is not going to be easy to have unfettered elections, safe elections; and it will take the will of the people of Afghanistan as well as the will of this Nation.

At the same time, I would hope that we would focus on other issues of concern as we work toward a free and independent and secure Afghanistan.

DRILLING IN ANWR

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, energy and independence should be a goal of this Congress. Worldwide demand for petroleum has increased in the last decade. The growth in production has been relatively flat. The inevitable result is in higher prices at the gasoline pump. This reality is that it takes time to go from an oil field to the gasoline station, and we have lost a considerable amount of time.

In 1995, the 104th Congress passed H.R. 2491, which would have allowed oil exploration in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of Energy has estimated that between 1 and 1.3 million barrels of oil a day could be derived from this source.

Unfortunately, this legislation was vetoed by President Clinton, and that was nearly 10 years ago. Given a time line of 7 to 14 years for building a pipeline structure, it is time we could scarcely afford to waste.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to ANWR. The vast coastal plain is unsuitable for habitation during the summer months because of the marshy consistency of that plain. Any caribou unlucky enough to calve in this region would

likely die from exsanguination at the hands of mosquitoes there.

The people who live in ANWR are counting on this Congress to do the right thing and allow them, the rightful owners of these mineral rights, to begin developing resources.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT NOT TIED TO THE OIL INDUSTRY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the administration's energy program will be rubber stamped once again by this Congress. It is the rubber stamp Congress; anything the president wants, they get it.

Let me summarize it. The Vice President holds secret meetings with oil representatives, and then gas prices soar to the highest levels in two decades; American consumers pay \$25 billion more; oil companies make \$34 billion more; oil company profits increase 165 percent at one company and 294 percent at another company; and now the administration wants to drill in ANWR, the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Reserve.

At this rate, the administration will make an oil drilling rig part of the new Visitor's Center complex out in front of the Capitol.

This administration has sold out the American people to big oil. It is time for that well to run dry before there is more damage to the wallet of American consumers or the fragile environment that we need to protect. We need a President who is not tied to the oil industry.

CALLING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last week the Associated Press reported that Iraqis are paying 5 cents for a gallon of gas; 5 cents, a nickel. Why are the Iraqis getting such a good deal while the rest of the world has an energy crisis? Because the American taxpayer is subsidizing the Iraqis to the tune of \$167 million a month so they can get discounted gasoline. This comes to \$500 million every 3 months, \$1 billion every 6 months, \$2 billion over the year.

Here in America, hard-working families are paying close to \$2, if not more, per gallon, up 50 cents since the beginning of the war in Iraq.

Since this is energy week here in Congress, what are we doing? We are bringing up a piece of legislation that a Republican Senator dubbed the "No Lobbyist Left Behind" bill for the energy industry. For too long, this administration has two sets of books, and values: One for Iraq and one for America.

We cannot deny Americans the same dreams of affordable health care, quality education and affordable energy that we promise Iraqis. The same values that we hold for Iraq, we must pledge to Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this week we should work to solve the Nation's energy needs, and not retread bad policy.

AMERICANS TIRED OF BIASED, LIBERAL, SHODDY NEWS RE- PORTING

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last week on the evening news, Dan Rather, nicknamed "Rather Biased" by those of us who are conservative or those of us who just like fair reporting in general, spent 2 minutes reporting a story about 1,300 layoffs in Ohio. That certainly is something that is of concern, and yet at the same time he only spent 20 seconds reporting that 947,000 new jobs have been created in the last 3 months.

I realize that the media loves to dwell on the negative, but they also completely can ignore the fact that the unemployment rate is down to 5.6 percent, which is a lower rate than it averaged in 1970s, 1980s and 1990s; home ownership has risen to its highest level at 68 percent; and real disposable income is up nearly 4 percent this year. The economy is coming back and coming back strong, and yet the media still wants to dwell on the negative.

But then again it is no surprise. Their real goal is not journalism, but to get JOHN KERRY elected president. No wonder Fox, "fair and balanced news," has come on as one of the strongest cable networks that there is, Mr. Speaker. I think Americans have absolutely had enough with biased, liberal, shoddy reporting.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4513, RENEWABLE EN- ERGY PROJECT SITING IM- PROVEMENT ACT OF 2004, AND H.R. 4529, ARCTIC COSTAL PLAIN SURFACE MINING IMPROVMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 672 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 672

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4513) to provide that in preparing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to any action authorizing a renewable energy project, no Federal agency is required to identify alternative project locations or actions other than the proposed action and the